

GRAUSTARK

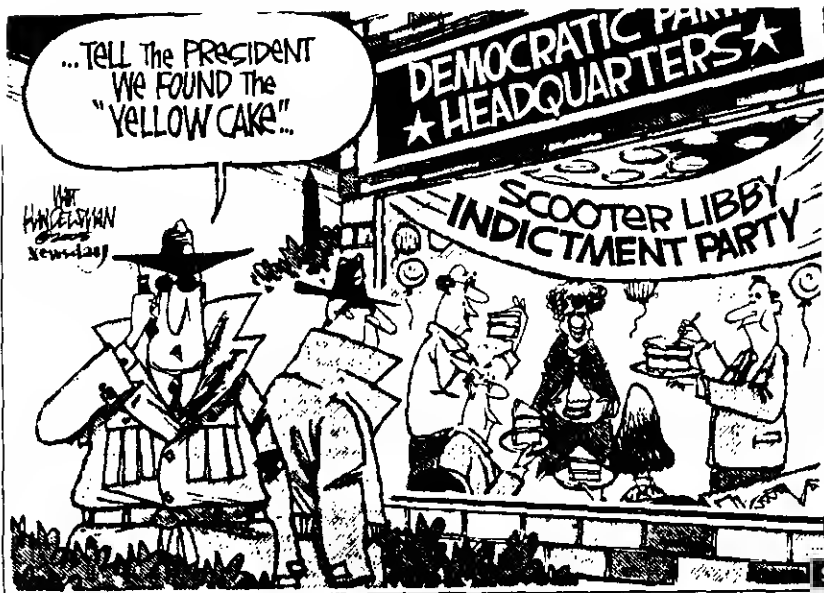
The first 'zine for the postal play of Diplomacy, a game of negotiation and conflict designed by Allan B. Calhamer and published by Hasbro

#769

2002D, "Fall 1908"; 2004C, "Winter 1904"

29 October 2005

Bush offensive



SEARCH AND DESTROY By Ted Rall



SUTTON IMPACT By Ward Sutton



WESTERN OFFENSIVE STALLS

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): A Mos-Sev; A Edi-St.P; F Nrg & F Bar C A Edi-St.P;
F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; F Lon holds.

FRANCE (Lischett): A Ven S A Nap-Apu; A Pie S A Ven; A Tyr S GERMAN A Mun-Boh;
A Nap-Apu; F Rom-Nap; F Tus S F Wes-Tyr; F Tun-Ion; F Wes-Tyr; A Par holds.

GERMANY (Quirk): A War & A Vie S A Sil-Gal; A Pru & A Liv S A War; F Bot & F Bal S
A Liv; A Sil-Gal; A Mun-Boh.

ITALY (Verheiden): F Adr-Tri; A Tri-Tyr; A Bud S RUSSIAN A Gal-Vie; F Ion-Apu.

RUSSIA (Neal): A Ukr-Sev; F Aeg holds; A Gal-Vie; A Rum-Sev; A Alb S ITALIAN F Adr-Tri;
F Eas-Ion.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Russian A Gal is dislodged and annihilated. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, Mos, Nwy, St.P. (6)

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Nap, Par, Por, Spa, Tun, Ven. (9)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun, Swe, Vie, War. (8)

ITALY: Bud, Gre, Rom, Ser, Tri. (5)

RUSSIA: Ank, Bul, Con, Rum, Sev, Smy. (6)

These are the same centers that each Power held at the end of "1907". (See #765.) Russia and Italy may each build one unit, to replace units annihilated in "1908". These units must be built in Sevastopol and in Rome respectively. These "Winter 1908" orders should be sent in by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL OR PHONE CALL, so that they arrive by FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2005. All players will be informed. The deadline for "Spring 1909" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2005.

PLEASE STAND BY

I am willing to take over games that have been abandoned by their gamesmasters. So if you are a postal gamesmaster who is no longer able to publish, or if you are a player in a postal game of regular Diplomacy that has gone for two or three months without a move being published, please get in touch with the Orphan Games Director, Michael Lowrey. (See p. 11 for his address.) If the game is to continue in Graustark, I would need the addresses of all active players, the current position, and a list of who owns which supply centers. If subscription money can be passed along to me, fine. Otherwise I will ask players to join a new game in Graustark, or to subscribe to Graustark if they do not already do so. Players who resign or drop out can be replaced by Graustark stand-by players.

Stand-by players are always needed for postal Diplomacy games in Graustark. If you volunteer as a stand-by, you may be called upon whenever a current player misses a move. If you send in moves for that country for the next turn, and the present player does not, you will take over play of that position. No game fee will be asked, though you should keep your subscription current, or enroll in a new Graustark game. No stand-by will be called upon in a game in which he or she has already played.

Stand-by volunteers who are willing to take on additional games of postal Diplomacy are listed below. A stand-by player who is already playing in a Graustark game is indicated by "*". If you wish your name added to or removed from this list, please let me know. These data are accurate to the date of 17 October 2005.

Hank Alme
John R. Biehl
Harley Jordan

Michael Neal*
Michael Quirk*
Eric Verheiden*
Fred Wiedemeyer*

2004C

"Winter 1904"

ENGLAND (Koch): Removes F Nrg.
 FRANCE (Wiedemeyer): Builds A Mar.
 GERMANY (Mathias): Builds A Kie, A Ber & A Mun.

ITALY (Mooney): Builds A Ven.
 RUSSIA (Biehl): Removes A Arm.

The deadline for "Spring 1905" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2005.

MUNICH MUCKRAKER: "What!!! The Pope wants the pasties?!??? He has all those fine Italian chefs/ He doesn't need the pasties like We do!!!! Send Us Our best negotiators! Offer him all the Hungarian goulash he can handle, and tell him We will send him all the deserts he wishes, and even a copy of the recipe for the pasties!" The Kaiser was heard shouting from the throne room yesterday.

BERLIN (AP): "...In related news, our undercover reporter has infiltrated the rumored "Secret Police" spy network. Russian agents were captured at the Norwegian border. Follow-up investigations have found some slight evidence that they may have really been innocent Yak herders, but further research is needed to clear them and gain their release.

RESILIENT SPRINGS, SKANDALUTZ (URRP): Recently there have been several more reported sightings of the Loch Mess Monster from the docks of this popular resort town high in the Balkan Massif. Most of these sightings took place after this year's vintage of the traditionally popular and potent wines of Skandalutz was harvested. Curiously, the sightings did not agree with one another. In one incident, two tourists came to blows over the number of heads possessed by the monster.

WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

The subscriptions of the following readers expire with the indicated issue of Graustark. This information is valid to the date of 29 October 2005. See p. 6 for information about extending your subscription or joining a new game.

770 - Michael Neal
 772 - Jim Dapkus

777 - Eric Verheiden
 W. Andrew York

799 - Brenton Verploeg

2002A GAME REVIEW

SIGOURNEY STREET (France): Coming into the Spring of 1901, the possibilities are endless. Very often, at the end of that season, you still don't know who your friends and enemies are.

At the end of the Fall 1901 season, I felt like the game was over for me. Germany and England had ganged up against me in Belgium and, barring a misstep on their part, I saw no way I could hold onto Burgundy. My best allies had problems of their own. At this point in the game, I saw France, Russia and possibly Italy as being the first out of the game.

Things changed, however, and by the end of 1905 England was out of the game and Germany & I were allies. Richard Bourgeois (Germany) stabbed me and mending fences with him came down to me apologizing for what he did to me. After that, working with him was fairly easy and I saw a three-way win with him and Russia.

Probably in 1906 I made a proposal telling him what I would do with his permission. He accused me of vile treachery and attacked me with a vengeance born of dementia. Realizing an apology for his betrayal wouldn't work a second time, I contacted my enemies with an offer of changing camps. I was pleasantly surprised at how graciously they welcomed me to their side.

Both times, I saw his back-stabbing as winning him only short-term gains and in the long run great loss. I figured even without changing camps, I would be able to overcome his duplicity and that he had much more to lose than gain from perfidy. This proved to be correct. In fact, Richard Bourgeois eventually fathomed his gross error and contacted me. With his credibility nil, I never considered his offer.

Eventually Turkey took Tunis from me by prior agreement. I liked it because it made it look like the alliance was falling apart.

Things went smoothly after that. If any of the three of us (Austria-Hungary, France, Turkey) thought of stabbing, none of us acted on such thoughts.

THE FATAL BETROTHAL

Margaret Frazer (pseudonym of Gail Frazer), *A Play of Dux Moraud* (2005, Berkley, NY; \$7, and isn't that a hell of a price for an ordinary paperback?)

Dame Frevisse's actor friend Joliffe Ripon (the name he now uses), whom we first met in the authors' *The Servant's Tale*, is now in the second book of his own series. It begins in the fall of 1434, a few months after *A Play of Isaac*, reviewed in *Graustark* #765. The small company of traveling actors to which Joliffe belongs is now under the patronage of Lord Lovell, a historical personage who was deeply involved in the escalating intrigues which were to culminate in the War of the Roses.

And Lovell has need of Joliffe's investigative talents, which he saw in action in the events of *A Play of Isaac*. Sir Edmund Deneby, who holds lands of Lord Lovell, is about to announce the betrothal of his daughter Mariena to Amyas Breche, the nephew of another of Lovell's friends. But the last time Mariena's betrothal was announced, her intended husband died suddenly, and Lovell has been wondering if there is anything suspicious about that death, or dangerous to Amyas. So his new company of players will go, and their performance at the betrothal festivities will be Lovell's present to the happy couple. And, if his suspicions are justified, he has confidence that Joliffe will be able to determine what is going on.

Their small company also gets another member, who is badly needed since a company of three men and a boy is quite limited in the plays they can do and the roles they can take. Joliffe often plays female roles, since the stage was supposed to be too immoral for women to be involved with, as you know if you saw the film *Shakespeare in Love*. The other members are the director Thomas Basset, his daughter Rose (who tends to the costumes and make-up), Rose's young son Piers, and her occasional lover Ellis. But Gil, a son of one of Lovell's bailiffs, has been bitten with the acting bug, and Basset agrees to give him a try with his company. This gives us an opportunity to see what makes a good actor, and how Gil is trained in the skills that he will need. Fortunately, he works out well, and we can expect to see him in future books in this series. Besides, Joliffe is getting a bit too old to play female roles convincingly.

As Basset's troop settles in at Deneby Manor, rehearsing and presenting plays for the festivities, Joliffe discovers deeply tangled intrigues there. One of the plays which they plan to present is *Dux Moraud*, and as Joliffe becomes better acquainted with the history of the Deneby family he discovers to his horror that the themes of this morality play lie uncomfortably close to the secrets of the Denebys.

Dux Moraud is another of the plays that the author has taken from *Chief Pre-Shakespearean Dramas* (1924, Houghton Mifflin), edited by Professor Joseph Quincy Adams. And it is a very difficult play, too, in several senses of that word. For one thing, we have only the speeches of the title character, called "Duk Moraud" by Adams. For another, Moraud is seen committing or instigating the most horrendous crimes imaginable that lie within the power of a private person. And yet, at the end, after a visit to church he suddenly is stricken with remorse which seems completely unconvincing to a modern reader, although the play's author apparently intended it to be sincere, and Moraud dies in the odor of sanctity. In editing their company's text for possible use on the stage, Joliffe has the same problems with the play that Frazer obviously did. Even if we had the complete text, *Dux Moraud* would be in our times an impossible play to present.

This would obviously be an unsuitable mystery for Dame Frevisse. The atmosphere at Deneby Manor is charged with illicit and often pathological sexuality, apparently to persuade us that the corruption of the Deneby family has spread downward to all social levels. At various points in the course of the book, three horny young women throw themselves at Joliffe, and although he is by nature not averse to such amusements, for various reasons he has to turn all three of them down.

The denouement of the mystery results in two deaths, and leaves Sir Edmund Deneby in such a funk that Joliffe not only considers him suitably punished, but also is provided with a key to Dux Moraud's character and repentance, which he will work into the company's version of the play.

PATRIOTISM - XLIII

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the unprincipled cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is preventing Lynn Zelvin, who is blind, from entering the New York City subway system with her guide dog because it would have somehow violated new security precautions, which are presumably designed to prevent subway riders from being blown up by exploding dogs. (Ray Sanchez, *Newsday*, 24 and 31 October 2005)

PATRIOTISM is locking up two Afghan writers, Badr Zaman Badr and Abdurrahmin Muslim Dost, at Guantánamo Bay as suspected terrorists. These men actually wrote bitter satires against that country's Taliban government, and had already been arrested by its Pakistani allies. (James Rupert, *Newsday*, 31 October 2005)

PATRIOTISM is the refusal of Lt. Cmdr. Flex Plexico to discuss why these men were locked up.

PATRIOTISM is the "pressure to wring more information out of prisoners [which] came from the highest echelons of the White House and the Pentagon, well before the 2003 invasion of Iraq with captives from Afghanistan held at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and worked its way down to the lowliest, most ill-trained soldiers". (Alessandra Stanley, *New York Times*, 18 October 2005)

PATRIOTISM is the "2002 Defense Department document outlining harsher interrogation techniques to be used at Guantánamo Bay, including dogs and keeping prisoners standing in 'stress positions' for four hours at a time. That memo was personally annotated by Mr. Rumsfeld." (*Ibid.*)

PATRIOTISM is nominating J. Dorrance Smith to be assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, after he accused "American television networks of aiding Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations." (Eric Schmitt, *New York Times*, 26 October 2005)

PATRIOTISM is holding more than 500 detainees at Guantánamo Bay, but charging only four of them as required by the Constitution.

PATRIOTISM is soldiers taunting detainees at Guantánamo Bay with such remarks as "Look what your religion has brought you," leaving us to wonder what will be done to eral million Muslims now living in America. (Letta Tayler, *Newsday*, 27 October 2005)

PATRIOTISM is "military authorities [who] knowingly created an atmosphere in which guards would feel free to abuse prisoners." (James Yee, *For God and Country: Faith and Patriotism Under Fire*)

PATRIOTISM is the Pentagon's refusal to allow representatives of the Red Cross to visit the hunger strikers at Guantánamo Bay. (*Ibid.*)

PATRIOTISM is a state of police panic over a package with wires sticking out of it, which was discovered in Manhattan on the morning of 25 October 2005. After evacuating the vicinity and blowing up the package, police identified it as a harmless electronic switch.

PATRIOTISM is President Bush's attempt to exempt the Central Intelligence Agency from a congressional bill prohibiting torture, and his threat to veto that bill if it does not include this exemption.

PATRIOTISM is the unwillingness of the CIA agent on my mailing list to explain this.

PATRIOTISM is the police forcibly stopping an anti-war speech by Cindy Sheehan at a rally in Union Square, New York City. (Shadi Rahimi, *New York Times*, 20 September 2005)

PATRIOTISM is U. S. guards at Guantánamo Bay gouging out the eye of Omar Deghayes, an Afghan prisoner. (Letta Tayler, *Newsday*, 3 (October 2005)

PATRIOTISM is why "Three former members of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division say members of their battalion in Iraq routinely beat and abused prisoners in 2003 and 2004 to help gather intelligence on the insurgency and to amuse themselves." (Eric Schmitt, *New York Times*, 24 September 2005)

PATRIOTISM is the attempt of the Internal Revenue Service to revoke the tax exemption of am Episcopal church in Los Angeles where an anti-war sermon was preached in 2004. No such warning has been given about pro-war sermons. For details see Ray Abrams, *Preachers Present Arms*.

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Today's Terror Alert Color Code is Red with two big Yellow buttons, symbolizing that mickeymouse "threat" to the New York City subway system that threw the city's government, politicians, police, and transit authority into conniptions during the weekend of 7-10 October 2005. As you might suspect, the whole thing was invented by some religious fanatic eight time zones away, and eagerly endorsed by a mayor who was in the middle of a re-election campaign.

*

Graustark is the Very First bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy. It is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302. Diplomacy is a board game of negotiation and conflict for the period of World War I. It was designed by Allan B. Calhamer and is now published by Hasbro. Another new postal Diplomacy game is now being organized in Graustark, at a game fee of \$35. (For Canadian and Mexican addresses the game fee is \$50, and for other foreign addresses it is \$100, or 85 euros in cash.) This game fee includes a subscription to Graustark for as long as the game lasts, whether or not you are eliminated. With your game fee send in a list of the countries you'd like to play, in your order of preference, and I'll try to put you as close to the top of that list as I can. If you do not already have the postal rules for Diplomacy, which were last published in Graustark #749, let me know when you send in your game fee, and I'll send you a copy.

This is
O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves

Graustark subscriptions for non-players are 10 issues for \$15 for U. S. addresses, and \$40 or 35 euros for others. Back issues as available are 10 issues for \$5 for U. S. addresses. To foreign addresses, back issues have the same price as for foreign subscriptions. # 2114

Players who phone in their moves should call me at 718-693-1579 or 718-951-5808, extension 2. There are answering machines which can take your moves if I'm out. I do not have an e-mail address.

I want to again remind players that the U. S. Postal "Service" is not capable of reliably getting mail here in less than a week. Please take this into account in sending in your moves. If, a few times, your moves have arrived here by mail in less than a week, do not assume that this will always be the case.

There have recently been several examples of postal inefficiency. We often get mail intended for people at other addresses, and indications that mail addressed to me has been delivered somewhere else. We have frequently been getting letters that were clearly addressed to a hospital in the Bronx, but the USP"S" sees nothing wrong about delivering them to an Edwardian private home in Brooklyn. Also, I have long been of the opinion that letters are sometimes postmarked several days after they are mailed. Michael Neal's latest moves were dated 24 October, but postmarked in San Antonio on 31 October. They arrived here several days after the deadline of 28 October, but fortunately contained no changes in the orders he had already sent in on time for "Fall 1908" moves in 2002D.

Such major exhibitions of postal inefficiency have usually taken place shortly before the announcement of a rate increase. It is now rumored that the rate for one ounce of first-class mail will rise to 39c in January. Postcards will go up to 24c, plus (presumably) 2c more for the card itself. As usual, the USP"S" seems reluctant to announce the new rates for each additional ounce of first-class mail, or for priority or overseas mail.

*

Graustark readers who are interested in postal games which don't run here, are invited to write to the publishers of 'zines with which I trade, and ask what game openings they have. For their addresses, see all the readers indicated by "(T)" for "trade" in the Graustark Directory on pp. 10-11. Several of these publishers run a wide variety of postal games.

*

Six people have indicated their interest in joining the next Graustark postal Diplomacy game. As soon as the seventh entry-fee comes in, I will send out the country assignments and announce the deadline for "Spring 1901" moves.

*

As I had expected, no one has taken up my offer to publish an article explaining my alleged "Nazi" sympathies, not even the person whose accusation to this effect I cited in the last issue. Apparently he will just have to be dismissed as a sorehead who doesn't know what he is talking about.

While I'm on the topic, does any reader know what is the most widely circulated and influential conservative magazine in the country? In the likely event that no reader knows, I will identify that magazine in the next issue. Just as a hint, it is neither *Public Affairs* nor *The American Spectator*. I am happy to be able to inform you that both these rags have folded.

*

One of the cartoons on the collage cover of Graustark #768 had its origin, so to speak, in a column in the *Wall Street Journal*. Last year, a *WSJ* columnist expressed his dismay that there was not more public objection to the high level of taxes. It is an article of faith in the *WSJ* that Americans are being cruelly overtaxed, to the point where the public is being ground into abject poverty, while new business enterprises are unable to raise enough money to function.

That columnist was particularly concerned that people in the lower economic levels did not share his distaste for these allegedly oppressive taxes, which are in actuality far lower than those paid by residents of industrialized European nations. He called such people "lucky duckies", who not only pay no taxes but also benefit from government welfare programs. He suggested that if these "lucky duckies" were also taxed, they would share his class's revulsion for the federal government and its doings.

The *Village Voice* cartoonist Ruben Bolling took up this challenge, and has drawn several cartoons that show a stereotyped cartoon millionaire trying to keep Lucky Ducky from getting any federal money, only to see Lucky Ducky crying "Gotcha!" in the last panel as he gets some minuscule tax-funded benefit. In the latest such column, Bolling refers to Barbara Bush's claim that the hurricane refugees in crowded, dirty refugee centers are living better than they ever did before the hurricane.

*

In the year after a presidential election, politics schedules what I have called the "Eastern Trifecta". In such a year, the Governors of New Jersey and Virginia, and the Mayor of New York City, are elected, and these elections are generally seen as a way of estimating what the voting public thinks of its presidential choice of the previous year.

This year the returns are going to be indecisive. New York City's Republican Mayor, a man so wealthy that he can say, "Go out and buy me some public opinion," is certain to be re-elected, since the Democrats have campaigned so ineptly that no one considers them to have a chance. The Democratic candidate's sympathy for police who kill civilians have done him no good with the Democrats' traditional constituencies, since such victims are usually African-Americans or Latinos, and together these groups constitute a majority of the city's population. However, the Democrats are expected to keep an overwhelming majority in the City Council.

I did not vote from 1972 to 2000, out of distaste for the candidates and policies offered to us. However, I then realized that, if I was not able to vote for good candidates, I could at least vote for amusing ones. Often these are Greens, who are not one of the five "official" parties in the ballot in New York because their candidate for governor got fewer than 50,000 votes in the last election. While I have no use for their anti-technological message, they often provide the only opportunity to vote for candidates who believe that peace is preferable to war. Other independent candidates for Mayor include an Anarchist, or "Libertarian" as they like to call themselves, whose main campaign issue seems to be the horrible persecution which, she maintains, smokers are suffering in contemporary New York City. There is a candidate from Rent is Too Damn High Party, whose attitude towards the slow decay of the rent control law is admirable, but the Hudson River will flow into Lake Wobegon before I vote for a Vietnam veteran.

Michael Bloomberg was a Democrat until he realized that he could never get the Democratic nomination for Mayor, and became a Republican not long before he was elected in 2001. And he would probably be locked out of every Republican Party caucus west of

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS - CLXXXV

"Twenty years ago, conservative Christians had the confidence to proclaim themselves the moral majority. The prominence accorded them by political strategists and the press during the Reagan years was based on two assumptions: that religious conservatives constituted a unified bloc, and that their growing strength could be harnessed by the Republican Party in ways beneficial to both religious and political conservatives...In the aftermath of the Monica Lewinsky scandal, voters punished conservative Republicans who tried to turn the president's conduct into a seminar on the moral state of the union. In reaction to their seeming indifference, the Christian conservative Paul Weyrich...the man who coined the term 'moral majority,' posted a letter on his organization's Web page proclaiming that there was no moral majority in America after all. Perhaps it was time, he urged his followers, to pay less attention to politics and 'to separate themselves from this hostile culture.'"

- Alan Wolfe, *New York Times*, 27 February 2000

"Yes, the pressure does currently seem to be off Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) and other role-playing games (RPGs). But that is only because currently the principal target of the Christian campaign to dictate every aspect of American life is evolution. The same people who are on record as attacking the "satanic" character of RPGs are also trying to get their bible taught in the public schools as a science text, a religious notion which has variously been called "natural theology", "creation science", and "intelligent design." This is even eclipsing their ongoing attempt to place religious symbols, whose display in their homes and their houses of worship are protected by the Constitution, in public buildings and on public land as well, as if they were expressions of public policy.

Early in 2000, the state school board of Kansas was under the control of Christian Funny Mentalists who attempted to dictate to high schools that they should teach "creation science", which is neither scientific nor creative, in biology classes. Incredibly, this notion was endorsed by both the Republican and the Democratic candidates for President. As the vote on the "USA PATRIOT Act" also showed, we cannot rely on the Democrats to be defenders of freedom.

The voters of Kansas were not convinced, however, and that same year they ejected the creationist majority of their school board. But in 2002 and 2004 this majority was restored, and now they are trying it again. Incredibly, this time the Kansas school board has decreed a "redefinition of science itself, so that it would not be explicitly limited to natural explanations." Think that one over.

Other local and state school boards are also trying such stunts, a matter which I will discuss at greater length in the next issue.

"Intelligent design" is just a modern form of a notion that was introduced some 200 years ago by an English clergyman named Paley, who called it "natural theology". It was Paley's belief that god had given humanity two revelations of his existence - the natural world created by him, and the Christian scriptures. The mere existence of the world was for him proof of the existence of a creator, and he apparently did not ask himself why, in that case, a creator was a logical necessity. I am mystified as to how anyone who can believe in the eternal existence of a creator, is incapable of accepting an eternal existence for the material universe.

As science advanced in the nineteenth century, it became obvious that Paley's two "revelations" were giving contradictory information about the age, development, and nature of that material universe. This still bothers some proponents of creationism, including the perpetually pestiferous Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA). Senator Santorum, a devoutly annoying Christian believer, is opposed to intelligent design as it is now being preached by other devoutly annoying Christians. He realizes that the bible contains not only a creation story but also a chronology, which insists that this creation took place only a few thousand years ago. The proponents of intelligent design have apparently scrapped this belief, in an attempt to win over scientific support from people who are aware of the evidence that the universe is several billions of years old. Indeed, their notions incorporate the possibility that space aliens with

intelligence and science far beyond ours might have seeded the Earth with living things, and where would that leave Senator Santorum's god?

And, as many people do not seem to know, Christian objections to the teaching of science are not limited to evolution. Any astronomy book which observes that light has been on the way from the Andromeda Galaxy to us for about two million years is sure to elicit Christian objections that this cannot be, because the Andromeda Galaxy and the rest of the universe are only a few thousand years old. Attempts in Kansas and Georgia to turn the bible into a science textbook have not only rejected evolution, but also preach a "young universe" notion. The atomic theory of matter may also come under condemnation, because since its origin in ancient times it has been regarded as "materialistic", and Christianity is philosophically opposed to materialism.

Some Christians even believe that children should not be taught that some questions have more than one correct answer. The idea of several correct answers is alleged to promote moral ambiguity, or "relativism", which is often confused with relativity. Nevertheless, there are two values of "x" for which the equation $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$ is correct, and Christianity cannot change that.

If any of these attempts to enforce the teaching of "natural theology" or "intelligent design" ever reach the U. S. Supreme Court, that court will simply cite its decision in *Epperson vs. Arkansas*, about 20 years ago, and that will be the end of the matter/

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Incidentally, there is a persistent rumor that some western Senator is trying to get the federal government to stop funding radio telescopes and other types of astronomical research. This senator is alleged to believe that the findings of this astronomical research contradict the bible. This story, the identity of the Senator, and the steps he is trying to take, are (as far as I can determine) rumors that cannot be traced to any factual roots. Does anyone know anything more definite about this story?

*

"Dungeons & Christians" has been running in my gaming 'zines since 1984, when it began by reporting John Sapienza's demolition of Pat Pulling's campaign against D&D. It has since chronicled the continuing campaign by Christian fanatics to ban D&D, other RPGs, live-action RPGs (LARPs), and collectible card games including Magic: The Gathering, Vampire: The Masquerade, Werewolf: The Apocalypse, and others.

Important sources of information about game-bashers are the Game Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games (CAR-PGa), "an international network of researchers into all aspects of role-playing games". This column relies heavily on reports from both of these organizations. CAR-PGa Newsletter is published monthly by Paul Cardwell Jr., 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418 at \$12.00 a year for domestic, and \$13.50 a year for foreign, addresses. It keeps us posted on attacks on D&D and other RPGs, and provides us with arguments and strategies to be used against attempts to censor or ban games. It also lists upcoming gaming conventions. And, when space and time permit, I am going to cite its reports of the latest such attacks, and hopefully the crushing rebuttals made to them.

By the way, any time I cite a website in this column, or elsewhere in Graustark, I am inviting readers who are on the Internet, as I am not, to investigate it and let me know what is going on there. And CAR-PGa has its own web page: <www.theescapist.com/carpga.htm>. There is also a CAR-PGa page at <members.aol.com/waltonwj/carpga.htm>. And CAR-PGa has an e-mail discussion group at <egroups.com/group/car-pga>, to which there is a link on <theescapist.com/car-pga>.

*

Two different versions of Edvard Munch's famous painting "The Scream" have in recent years been stolen from the Munch Museum in Oslo. One, stolen while the attention of the world was on Norway for the world figure-skating championship, was intended by the thieves to draw attention to their campaign for compulsory pregnancy - or, as they put it, against abortion. It was soon recovered, but another "Scream", stolen last year, is still missing.

However, the museum has just put on the market a "cops-and-robbers" board game, "meant for players above the age of 6", entitled "The Mystery of 'The Scream'".

THE GRAUSTARK DIRECTORY

Players in a current postal Diplomacy games are indicated by its Boardman Number, with the initial of the country being played, and with "S" indicating an active stand-by player. (E. g., "2002C-R" or "2002D-FS".) Paying subscribers will be indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. Other designations are:

N: entrant in a new postal Diplomacy game now being organized in Graustark. (See p. 6 for details.)

T: trade copy

C: complimentary copy for a gamer

R: complimentary copy for a non-gamer interested in the mystery novel reviews

U: uncomplimentary copy

This directory is accurate to the date of 29 October 2005. Please let me know of any corrections or additions that need to be made, particularly if you want your nine-digit ZIP code, phone number, fax number, or e-mail address added to your listing. This is particularly important for electronic addresses, which seem to change more frequently than do postal addresses.

If you are already a Graustark subscriber when you decide to send in a game fee, then when the game begins, the number of issues you had coming when you joined will be added to your subscription once the game ends. After your name in the Directory will appear some such notation as "2004C-T+6".

Stephen Agar (T), 4 Cedar Gardens, Brighton BN1 6YD, ENGLAND; 01273-562430;

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Hank Alme (2004C), 506 Paige Loop, Los Alamos, NM 87544; 503-672-0883;

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David Charlton (C), 150 The Parade, Island Bay, Wellington 6002, NEW ZEALAND

Columbia Games Inc. (C), P. O. Box 3457, Blaine, WA 98231

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Jim Dunnigan (C), 328 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011

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THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 7)

the Delaware River, because he knows that he could not be elected dogcatcher if he ran in New York City on the traditional principles of his party. Those principles are instead supported by the Conservative Party candidate Thomas Ognibene, who got squeezed out of the Republican Party primary. Polls give him about 2% of the vote, which is more than six times what the last Conservative Party candidate got.

The major-party candidates for Governor of New Jersey are both rich, though not in Mayor Bloomberg's class. They have been running a gutter campaign against each other. The Democrat is favored, but since ballot access is easier in New Jersey than in New York, voters will be able to resort to several independent candidates on the ballot, including a "Libertarian". In 1997 the "Libertarian" candidate for Governor of New Jersey got over 5% of the vote, which I believe is a national record for gubernatorial candidates of that party. The main plank in his platform was a pledge to utterly abolish all abortion in New Jersey. I am not quite sure how this fit into the supposed

"Libertarian" distaste for governmental interference in private life, but then I am not a specialist in abnormal psychology.

Incidentally, there is another important difference between politics in New York and in New Jersey. In New York we elect politicians first, and then indict them. In New Jersey they do it the other way around.

As for Virginia, the third member of the "Eastern Trifecta", pollsters have called the gubernatorial election too close to call. By the time you receive this issue, you'll know all the results anyhow.

*

But the really interesting elections will be in 2006. Some people have predicted Democratic victories, and maybe even Democratic control of the 110th Congress, based on the declining popularity of Bush the Son. However, that decline is largely due to Bush War II. Replacing Republicans with War Democrats in Congress will not help a bit.

This is going to be particularly true in New York, both of whose Democratic Senators support Bush War II and the "USA PATRIOT Act". Hillary CLyndon is up for re-election next year, and Cindy Sheehan has already been leading anti-war demonstrations at her offices as well as near the residences of Bush the Son. Since CLyndon wants to increase the size of ~~US~~ ~~armed~~ forces by 80,000, she is in no position to benefit from the increasing opposition to war. She will certainly face a peace candidate in next year's Democratic primary election.

Incidentally, what is Cindy Sheehan's birthday? We should find out, because it will eventually be a national holiday.

*

Since this issue's Directory went to press, Mike Fisher has renewed his subscription to Graustark. His address is #2, 43 W. Manheim St., Philadelphia, PA 19144-2942.

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS (continued from p. 9)

(*New York Times*, 25 October 2005) Although it is intended as an educational game, there has been some criticism, probably because players can play as either detectives or thieves. "It has 36 cards featuring works of art known to the children."

GRAUSTARK #769

John Boardman
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